

July 10, 2007

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

Humboldt County – Singley Road Widening Project  
WDID No. 1B07025WNHU

Humboldt County

On March 14, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Humboldt County Department of Public Works (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to the proposed Singley Road Widening Project near Loleta. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with road side drainages tributary to the Eel River in the Ferndale Hydrologic Subarea No. 111.11.

The proposed project involves road widening and drainage modifications along approximately 0.3 mile of Singley Road between the Bear River Casino and the southern interchange with Highway 101. The existing road in the project area has little or no shoulder in most areas and one moderately sharp curve. The primary purpose of the proposed project is to improve traffic safety and flow by widening the road surface and paving the road shoulders to meet Humboldt County standards. The road will be widened from twenty feet to thirty-two feet including four feet of paved shoulder on each side.

Widening the roadway requires filling and relocation of existing roadside drainage features. The existing roadside drainages are approximately six to eight inches deep, two to four feet wide, and they are typically dry except for during storm events. The roadside drainages will be filled with rock and native material. New asphalt dikes will be placed along the outer edges of the widened road surface to convey runoff into new drop inlets, new culverts, and a new energy dissipation swale.

The proposed project will result in permanent impacts to 0.179 acre of existing wetlands associated with filling the roadside drainages. Compensatory mitigation is required for the permanent impacts to existing wetlands. Proposed compensatory mitigation involves creation of 0.179 acre of wetland adjacent to an existing wetland located on an adjacent parcel. Noncompensatory mitigation includes the use of Best Management Practices for erosion control. The proposed project is scheduled for the summer 2007. The project is expected to take up to five months to complete.

Projects that result in an increase in the amount of impervious surface area can increase the volume of storm water discharged from an area, the duration of elevated storm water flows, and the runoff flow rate. The proposed project includes installation of an underground storm water detention basin that is designed to limit the post-

development storm water runoff to the pre-development runoff conditions during a 100-year rain event. The proposed detention basin will be installed beneath an existing unpaved parking area at the Bear River Casino.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit Number 14, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. On March 29, 2007, the Humboldt County Department of Public Works adopted a mitigated negative declaration (SCH No. 2007012040) for the project in order to comply with CEQA.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed road widening activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed project including maps and design drawings. The application and Regional Water Board file are available for public review.

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.